


IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1-49 and 51-52. Please add new claims 53 – 79 as follows:

Claims 1 - 49 (CANCELED).

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50. (ORIGINAL) A method for automatically processing transactions between a buying company and a selling company, comprising the steps of :

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- (a) obtaining via a computer network purchase order data having at least one entry, the purchase order data including purchase order header information and purchase order detail information;
 - (b) obtaining via a computer network invoice data having at least one entry, the invoice data including invoice header information and invoice detail information;
 - (c) automatically comparing selected purchase order header information and corresponding selected invoice header information to identify a matched record having purchase order data and corresponding invoice data;
 - (d) comparing total cost of goods received from the matched record purchase order data and total cost of goods shipped from the matched record invoice data according to a predetermined tolerance;
 - (e) if the total costs are within the predetermined tolerance, then providing for payment of invoices corresponding to the matched record invoice data;
 - (f) if the total costs are not within the predetermined tolerance, then electronically comparing selected purchase order detail information and selected invoice detail information according to predetermined rules;
 - (g) if the selected information comparison satisfies the predetermined rules, then providing for payment of invoices corresponding to the selected invoice detail information; and
 - (h) if the selected information comparison does not satisfy the predetermined rules, automatically notifying the buying company for resolution of purchase order data not matching invoice data; or

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automatically notifying the selling company for resolution of invoice data not matching purchase order data.

51. (CANCELED)

52. (CANCELED)

53. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain purchase order data is a local area network.

54. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain purchase order data is a wide area network.

55. (NEW) The method of claim 54, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

56. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain invoice data is a local area network.

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57. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the computer network used to obtain invoice data is a wide area network.

58. (NEW) The method of claim 57, wherein the wide area network is the Internet.

59. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data is stored in a database.


60. (NEW) The method of claim 59, wherein the database is a central database.

61. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the invoice data is stored in a database.


62. (NEW) The method of claim 61, wherein the database is a central database.

63. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order data and the invoice data are stored in a database.

64. (NEW) The method of claim 63, further comprising the step of providing for interaction with the database by at least one of the buying company or selling company.

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65. (NEW) The method of claim 64, wherein the step of providing for interaction with the database is performed using a network interface.
66. (NEW) The method of claim 65, wherein the network interface comprises a web page.
67. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the purchase order header information comprises a purchase order number, a client identifier, a vendor identifier, and a purchase order date.
68. (NEW) The method of claim 67, wherein the purchase order detail information comprises the purchase order header information and purchase order entries comprising a quantity ordered, an item identifier, a unit price, and a charge code.
69. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the invoice header information comprises an invoice number, a client identifier, a vendor identifier, and an invoice date.
70. (NEW) The method of claim 69, wherein the invoice detail information comprises the invoice header information and at least one invoice entry comprising a quantity shipped, an item identifier, and an extended price.
71. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the step of automatically comparing selected purchase order data and corresponding selected invoice data is computer-implemented.
72. (NEW) The method of claim 50, wherein the steps are performed by a company that is neither a buying company nor a selling company.
73. (NEW) The method of claim 50, further comprising the step of facilitating the financing of accounts based upon the matched records.
74. (NEW) The method of claim 73, wherein the facilitating step is the factoring of accounts receivable.

75. (NEW) A computer-implemented method for processing transactions between a buying company and a selling company, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) obtaining buying company transaction settlement data from a buying company, the transaction settlement data having at least one entry and comprising header information and detail information;
 - (b) obtaining selling company transaction settlement data from a selling company, the transaction settlement data having at least one entry, and comprising header information and detail information;
 - (c) comparing buying company transaction settlement data header information and selling company transaction settlement data header information to create a matched record;
 - (d) determining, based upon a predetermined tolerance, whether to pay an amount claimed in the invoice.

76. (NEW) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of paying the amount claimed in the invoice if the amount claimed is at or within a limit set using the predetermined tolerance.

77. (NEW) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of matching buying company transaction settlement data detail information with selling company transaction settlement data detail information according to predetermined rules.

78. (NEW) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of paying the amount claimed in the invoice if the amount claimed is within a limit set using the predetermined tolerance.

79. (NEW) The computer-implemented method of claim 75, further comprising the step of
initiating a resolution workflow to resolve discrepancies outside a limit set using the
predetermined tolerance.
